

**Development of an unique cross border dynamic for phytoremediation on marginal land and implementation of biobased value chains over Flanders, Wallonia and the North of France.**

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December 2018

Large areas of marginal land can be found all over Europe. Marginal land can be described as neglected, abandoned, degraded land due to industrial, agricultural or natural constraints, that cannot be used for food production. Since the debate between land for food versus non-food production is getting more attention, the need to use the available marginal sites grows. The New-C-Land project, that is composed of 8 project partners in Flanders, Wallonia and the North of France, aims to restore the soil of marginal land by phytoremediation on one hand. On the other hand it focuses on making this remediation process economically viable by creating sustainable value chains to develop the local circular economy. The project is active in collecting soil data within the impact zone in order to map and characterize marginal land. A second step is evaluating potential cultures on these marginal lands in aim of finding high potential value chains. Value chains on hemp cultures and essential oils from phytoremediation are studied at the moment. A decision support tool will also be developed to select best value chains. The project will bring landowners and end users within the region together to, with help and knowledge of the project partners, overcome bottlenecks and implement these bio-based value chains. The New-C-Land website is almost online and a first open call will take place shortly after for this aim. These phytomanagement activities will also develop the circular economy in the impact region.

This research is supported and made possible by Interreg Flanders-Wallonia-North-Of-France. We thank our colleagues from OVAM who will assist the research with their data and expertise.